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**From:** energy@morningconsult.cpro30.com  
**Sent:** Mon 8/17/2015 12:37:44 PM  
**Subject:** Morning Consult Energy, Presented by America's Natural Gas Alliance: Oil Export Ban Lifts A Little; O&G Giant Samson to File for Bankruptcy

by [Colleen Leahy \(@cocoblerg\)](#)

## Today's Washington Brief

- The U.S. Commerce Department on Friday took a step towards lifting the oil export ban when it announced it would allow American crude oil companies to trade with Mexico. The Commerce Department said it will approve an application from Mexico's national oil company to trade its heavy oil for U.S. light crude. ([Wall Street Journal](#))
- The Obama administration on Friday said it wants to restrict methane emissions coming from landfills by a third. The proposal would update 1996 rules for landfill pollution. ([The Hill](#))
- GOP presidential hopeful and Ohio governor John Kasich has managed to remain vague on energy policy. But he's going to have to come down definitively on the issues soon because of politics in his home state. ([National Journal](#))

## Today's Business Brief

- Hanergy Thin Film Power Group said over the weekend that it may report a loss for the first half of the year. The potential loss comes after a large number of cancelled sales to its parent company, Hanergy Holding. ([Reuters](#))
- Oil and gas giant Samson Resources on Friday announced plans to file for bankruptcy this fall. The company's bankruptcy is the largest yet in a line of corporate casualties resulting from the long slump in oil prices. ([Wall Street Journal](#))

## Today's Chart Review

**Even Doubled, America's Gas Tax Would Be Low by World**

**Standards**  
**from City Lab by Eric Jaffe**

## **Mark Your Calendars (All Eastern Times)**

### **Monday**

No events today.

### **Tuesday**

Heritage Foundation discussion: Examining Arctic Opportunities and Capabilities: Does the U.S. Have the Infrastructure, Ships and Equipment Required?, @1:30pm

Earnings report for Canadian Solar Inc.

### **Wednesday**

Solar Energy Industries Association webinar: Solar & The Clean Power Plan: What You Should Know To Drive Your Business, @1pm

Environmental and Energy Study Institute webinar: On-Bill Financing: An Energy Efficiency Solution for Member-Owned Utilities in the Midwest, @2pm

Earnings report for Solar Power Inc.

### **Thursday**

No events today.

### **Friday**

No events today.

## **General**

**Obama seeks new air pollution limits for landfills**  
**from The Hill by Timothy Cama**

The administration wants to restrict allowable methane emissions from landfills by about a third.

**Colorado Spill Heightens Debate Over Future of Old Mines**  
**from the New York Times by Julie Turkewitz**

The accident heightened a debate in Colorado over the future of this region's old mines, and served as a reminder, some critics say, that the Gold King's toxic demise could be repeated at any of thousands of abandoned mines around the country.

**Why Republicans Can't Stop Obama's Executive Actions on Day One**  
from National Journal by Sam Baker

Reversing Obama's regulations and executive actions wouldn't be as simple as the Republican field would have you believe.

**Yucca could have 'small' groundwater impact, report finds**  
from The Hill by Timothy Cama

The proposed nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain could have a "small" environmental impact on groundwater at the Nevada site, nuclear regulators said. The finding came Thursday in a draft report from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), which is conducting a years-long environmental study into the stalled nuclear waste site.

**Commodity Slide Spurs Treasuries as Emerging Markets Extend Drop**  
from Bloomberg by Nick Gentle and Stephen Kirkland

Treasuries gained with European bonds as falling commodity prices curbed the outlook for inflation. Futures signaled U.S. stocks will fall, while China's shift to a more market-oriented exchange rate continued to push assets in developing economies lower.

## **Oil & Natural Gas**

**Oil pulled down by Japanese economy**  
from CNBC by Reuters

Oil fell to near six-year lows as Japan's economy contracted and the US added drilling rigs for a fourth straight week despite a rout in prices.

**U.S. Loosens Longtime Ban on Oil Exports**  
from the Wall Street Journal by Christian Berthelsen, Lynn Cook and Laurence Iliff

Energy companies eager to export American crude oil scored a victory Friday when Washington agreed to allow them to trade oil with Mexico, in a further erosion of the four-decade ban on selling U.S. crude overseas.

**Refiners running full throttle could lead to a heavier fall maintenance season**

from Fuel Fix by Rhiannon Meyers

As plants operate at record-high capacities to soak up cheap crude and satisfy a growing demand for gasoline, a spate of refinery shutdowns have cropped up across the United States, including a recent shutdown of the BP Whiting plant, the largest refinery in the Midwest.

KKR's Samson Resources Plans Chapter 11 Filing  
from the Wall Street Journal by Matt Jarzemsky and Ryan Dezember

KKR & Co.'s Samson Resources Corp. plans to file for chapter 11 bankruptcy protection by mid-September after finalizing a restructuring plan with key lenders Friday.

Low Oil Prices Pose Threat to Texas Fracking Bonanza  
from the New York Times by Clifford Krauss

The technology that unlocked the oil in shale fields produced a boom to Karnes County, Tex., but the economy there is cooling fast.

## Utilities and Infrastructure

Clean Power Plan offers concessions but is still a challenge — utility analysts  
from E&E by Emily Holden

Extended deadlines for action under the final Clean Power Plan are a boon to electric utilities, according to financial analysts.

Alaska's quest to power remote villages — and how it could spread clean energy worldwide  
from the Washington Post by Chris Mooney

Alaska, a vast landmass with harsh winters and remote native towns facing high energy costs, has become a unique innovator in renewable energy.

## Climate

Australia's Abbott Defends Climate Pledge as Criticism Increases  
from Bloomberg by James Patton

Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott defended his policies to tackle carbon emissions after the government's climate change adviser said the nation is lagging peers in cutting greenhouse gases.

# Renewables

## Can John Kasich Find Sunlight On Clean Energy? from National Journal by Jason Plautz

When it comes to energy, John Kasich seems to like living in the murky middle. But he can't stay there forever.

## U.S. lags Europe on offshore wind efforts from Fuel Fix by Jordan Blum

A report Friday by Rachel Marsh and Cara Marcy of the U.S. Energy Information Administration noted that, when compared with western Europe, which is the leader in offshore wind energy, the U.S. is estimated to have more abundant and affordable onshore wind resources, which are mostly located in sparsely populated areas like western Texas.

## Hanergy says may post loss after cancelling deals with parent from Reuters by Clare Jim

Hanergy Thin Film Power Group Ltd (HTF), under investigation by Hong Kong's share market regulator, said on Sunday it may record a loss for the first half of the year after suspending or terminating a large number of sales to its parent company and affiliates.

# Nuclear

## Fukushima operator's mounting legal woes to fuel nuclear opposition from Reuters by Kentaro Hamada

Four and a half years after the Fukushima disaster, and as Japan tentatively restarts nuclear power elsewhere, the legal challenges are mounting for the crippled plant's operator.

# Opinions, Editorials & Perspectives

## Commentary: What a nuclear restart means for Japanese oil demand from Fuel Fix by Matt Smith

With so much focus on the level of Chinese oil imports, impending US LNG exports, and India's rising coal consumption, it goes somewhat by the wayside that Japan is one of the largest global consumers of all three of these commodities.

### **A Message from America's Natural Gas Alliance:**

Natural gas puts America in charge of its energy future. Clean, affordable electricity from natural gas means we're cooling our homes and turning on our lights while also reducing emissions. In fact, in April — for the first time ever — natural gas was the leading source of electricity in the United States. It's no coincidence that CO2 emissions from US power plants were also at their lowest in 27 years. America's Natural Gas. [Think About It.](#)

## **Research Reports, Issue Briefs & Case Studies**

### **First offshore wind farm in the United States begins construction** from the Energy Information Administration

In July, American offshore wind developer, Deepwater Wind, installed the first foundation for what is expected to be the first offshore wind farm in the United States. The project will be located three miles southeast of Block Island, Rhode Island.

### **A Message from America's Natural Gas Alliance:**

Natural gas is the fastest and most affordable way for America to curb green house gas emissions. It's also the cleanest and most reliable way for America to meet its energy needs. It's no coincidence that natural gas produced the largest share of America's power for the first time ever in April — also the cleanest month for US power plant emissions in 27 years. America's Natural Gas. [Clean is Powerful.](#)

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